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2/27/06PTO IDENTIFIER: Application Number 10/656,190-Conf. #8417  
Patent Number

Inventor: Nobuhiro Miki et al.

MESSAGE TO: US Patent and Trademark Office

FAX NUMBER: (571) 273-8300

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Attorney Dkt. #: 21776-00042-US1

PAGES (Including Cover Sheet): 10

CONTENTS:

Response to Non-Compliant Amendment  
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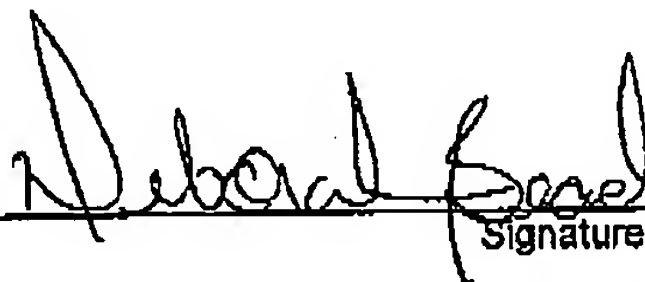
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Response to Non-Compliant Amendment

Docket No.: 21776-00042-US  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Conf. No. 8417

Nobuhiro Miki, et al.

Application No.: 10/656,190

Group Art Unit: 1744

Filed: September 8, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: SURFACE PURIFICATION APPARATUS  
AND SURFACE PURIFICATION METHOD

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**RESPONSE TO NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated February 14, 2006, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.